Please replace the Abstract of the disclosure with the Abstract provided as Appendix 2 at the end of this Preliminary Amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-20 without prejudice or disclaimer, and substitute the following claims therefor:

---29. Knee prosthesis comprising:

a metal base secured to an anchoring rod for fixing it into a tibia of a patient;

a plastic tibia plate freely slidable over said base;

the metal base and the tibia plate having a guide mechanism defining a center of rotation offset from that of a tibia bone axis, so as to allow the plate to slide in rotation over said base;

said guide mechanism being positioned a given distance from the center of rotation.

30. Knee prosthesis according to Claim 29, wherein the guide mechanism comprises at least two pegs set out in an arc of a circle and defining a center of rotation, and of a housing having the same radius of curvature formed in the tibia plate, said pegs being positioned in the anterior part of the metal base and oriented in a substantially medio-lateral

direction.

31. Knee prosthesis according to Claim 30, wherein the pegs are set out in an arc of a circle about a center of rotation, while the tibia plate has a housing for receiving the pegs.

32. Knee prosthesis according to Claim 30, wherein said pegs have a center of rotation which is borne by a tibia bone vertical axis, while said pegs are a certain distance from its center of rotation.

33. Knee prosthesis according to Claim 30, wherein said pegs have a center of rotation which is offset from a tibia bone vertical axis, while said pegs are a certain distance from its center of rotation.

34. Knee prosthesis according to Claim 29, wherein the metal base and the tibia plate respectively comprise a cutout through which the posterior cruciate ligament can pass.

35. Knee prosthesis according to Claim 29, wherein the metal base has two upstands in the shape of an arc of a circle curved in the same direction and centered about the same

center of rotation, while the tibia plate comprises housings for receiving said upstands, so as to allow said plate to slide in rotation about the center of rotation.

36. Knee prosthesis according to Claim 35, wherein the upstands are integral with a flange which engages in a slot in the housing to prevent the tibia plate from lifting off the metal base as the plate slides in rotation about the center of rotation.

37. Knee prosthesis according to Claim 29, wherein the metal base comprises two upstands in the shape of an arc of a circle in opposite directions and centered about the same center of rotation, while the tibia plate comprises an element and a housing for receiving said upstands to allow said plate to slide in rotation about the center of rotation.

38. Knee prosthesis according to Claim 37, wherein the upstands are set out on the external periphery of the horizontal disk of the metal base so as to engage with a peripheral recess in the tibia plate.

39. Knee prosthesis according to Claim 37, wherein the upstands are offset from the center of rotation and comprise a flange which snap-fastens into the housing in the tibia plate to, on the one hand, guide the plate as it slides in rotation about its center and, on the other

hand, retain said plate so that it does not lift off the metal base.

40. Knee prosthesis according to Claim 29, wherein the metal base comprises a peripheral upstand in the shape of an arc of a circle integral with a flange directed toward the tibia bone vertical axis and a housing set out in the region of the center of rotation, while the tibia plate has, on its external periphery, a recess in which there is formed a horizontal slot for receiving the flange of said upstand and, on its lower face, a stub which engages with the housing.

41. Knee prosthesis according to Claim 29, wherein the metal base comprises three peripheral upstands extending vertically above the horizontal disk, while the tibia plate has, on its external periphery, three recesses for receiving said upstands to allow said plate to be guided as it slides in rotation about the center of rotation.

42. Knee prosthesis according to Claim 29, wherein the metal base comprises at least one of an upstand or a peg which engages with a housing of the tibia plate so that said plate can slide in rotation over the metal base only within the limit set by the difference in size between said at least one of an upstand or a peg and said corresponding housing.

43. Knee prosthesis according to Claim 42, wherein the rotational travel between the tibia plate and the metal base is reduced to zero when the dimensions of the housing are made so as to engage without clearance with the at least one of the upstand or the peg.

44. Knee prosthesis according to Claim 29, wherein the short height of the guide mechanism and the anterior positioning on the metal base allows the tibia plate to be mounted on said base via a strictly anterior approach, said plate requiring upward clearances only by the height of the said guide mechanism.

45. Knee prosthesis according to claim 29, further comprising:

at least one upstand in the shape of an arc of a circle;

said upstand being positioned in an anterior part of the metal base and oriented in a substantially medio-lateral direction.

46. Knee prosthesis according to Claim 45, wherein the additional guide mechanism is positioned at one of, on, or near, the center of rotation of the tibia plate on the metal base.

47. Knee prosthesis according to Claim 46, wherein the additional guide mechanism is secured to a device for preventing the tibia plate from lifting from the metal base.

48. Knee prosthesis according to Claim 45, wherein the upstand has a center of rotation which is borne by the tibia bone vertical axis, while said upstand is a certain distance from its center of rotation.

49. Knee prosthesis according to Claim 45, wherein the upstand has a center of rotation which is offset from the tibia bone vertical axis, while said upstand is a certain distance from its center of rotation.

50. Knee prosthesis according to Claim 45, wherein the metal base has, opposite the upstand, a retaining peg borne by a center of rotation so as to engage with a cutout formed in the tibia plate to prevent the latter from lifting off the base as the plate slides in rotation about its center of rotation.

51. Knee prosthesis according to Claim 50, wherein the retaining peg comprises a cylindrical pin integral with a head which has a larger diameter than said pin so that said head engages with inclined faces made in the cutout.

52. Knee prosthesis according to Claim 45, wherein the metal base has, opposite the upstand, a centering peg borne by the center of rotation so as to engage with a blind hole

formed in the tibia plate to guide the latter with respect to the base as said plate slides in rotation about its center of rotation.

53. Knee prosthesis according to claim 45, wherein said at least one upstand is secured to the metal base and said guide mechanism further comprises a housing having the same radius of curvature as that of the tibia plate to allow the latter to slide in rotation about the center of rotation of said at least one upstand.

54. Knee prosthesis according to claim 53, wherein said at least one upstand has a center of rotation which is borne by a tibia bone vertical axis, while said at least one upstand is a given distance from its center of rotation.

55. Knee prosthesis according to claim 53, wherein said at least one upstand has a center of rotation which is offset from a tibia bone vertical axis, while said upstand is a given distance from its center of rotation.

56. Knee prosthesis according to claim 50, wherein the metal base comprises said at least one upstand, said at least one upstand being of a first size, said at least one upstand engaging with a housing of the tibia plate, said housing being of a second size, to permit said